

Title: Infant Formula/Cereal/Baby Food Exemptions

Purpose

The Montana WIC Program acknowledges that infant formula is a costly expense. In order to encourage retailer participation in smaller communities, an exemption may be granted upon State approval of a written request, per the Montana WIC Memorandum of Understanding.

Authority

The Montana WIC Retailer Memorandum of Understanding

Policy

It is the policy of the Montana WIC Program that WIC retailers in rural areas and having an extremely small infant population are allowed to apply for an exemption to the stocking requirement for infant cereal, infant formula, or baby food. The exemption will be for the length of the current contract period. The exemption may be canceled if the infant population increases significantly.

I. General Information

- A. Retailers applying for and receiving an infant formula, infant cereal or baby food stocking exemption must post a sign directing participants to a contact person.
- B. The contact person will then order the required product from their wholesaler. The formula must be available to the participant within 72 hours (three days).
- C. The retailer must continue to have the stock available as long as the participant is in need of the formula or baby food item.

II. Application for exemption

- A. The retailer must submit a written request to the Montana WIC Program, specifying the exact infant food items they wish to have exempted. The only acceptable rationale for a stocking exemption is a small infant population.
 - 1. The State will verify the infant population base and decide.
 - 2. The State will notify the retailer and the LARC of their decision in writing.
 - 3. Only upon receipt of written approval from the State Office, may the retailer discontinue stocking the specific items.
 - 4. The exemption will be for the term of the present contract only. A new exemption must be requested, reviewed and granted for each subsequent contract period.

III. Participants

- A. Upon receipt of their WIC benefits, participants must inform the retailer contact person of the amount of formula or foods required so the requested food/formula could be ordered and be available for purchase.